

The Hawaiian Star

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GEORGE F. HENSHALLMANAGER

FRIDAY,DECEMBER 18, 1908

SEEMS LIKE COURTING TROUBLE.

Governor Frear drafted a new land law for Hawaii while on his way to Washington, thus profitably employing his time at sea. Since then he has been hard at work changing and amending it. But the people of Hawaii are not allowed either to see the original draft, which he sent back here, nor to know anything at all about what changes are being made. Isn't this rather a queer way of doing public business? Isn't it risking, needlessly, a sort of a Mahuka-site outbreak of local sentiment if there should happen to be unpopular features in the law? The new law, having been drawn by Frear, will probably be a good one. But its disputable features, if there are any, will be at a disadvantage if sprung like the Irwin site exchange. The Irwin site is a good one, but when people here found that it had been taken up in Washington without consulting Honolulu, it lost the support even of those whose choice it really was. If there is one subject in which all the people of Hawaii are interested it is the proposed changes in the land laws.

"MACHINES" AND THE PRIMARY LAW.

What is being done about the promised primary law for Hawaii? There is no law more important to the political future of the islands than this will be, yet though there is a general understanding that we are to have one, few if any members of the legislature have any definite programme. Some kinds of a primary law would be much worse than none.

The Star has long contended and still holds that there is little machine politics here, and it thinks our elections are much above the average in cleanness, as well as that our government (whatever may be said as to the competency of some of it) is above the average for honesty in office. It is years since there was any definite showing of important graft in office here and the community is so alert and public affairs and officers are so familiar to nearly all the citizens in our little isolated municipality, that serious unfair inroads on the public treasury are not easy. This does not mean that our elections cannot be improved, nor that the grafter is not always with us. The proposed primary law is one of the things which is expected to improve matters.

It is possible to construct a primary law that would authorize and create political party machines of greater strength than we have ever had here, and it is possible to have a primary law that would eliminate machines. In this connection the San Francisco Evening Bulletin offers some suggestions worthy of consideration:

"To encourage non-partisan voting, the direct primary law should permit an aspirant to propose himself as a candidate for the nomination of more than one party. A primary law which would prevent a coalition of parties behind a particular candidate would be vicious in operation.

"It is worth considering, indeed, whether the direct primary law should not do away entirely with party designations in State and local elections. Why should there be Republican, Democratic or Union Labor nominees for Governor or Mayor? Why should not each candidate go upon the ticket as an American citizen, without a party label, so that the people might vote for or against him on account of his character, his ability, his record, and his principles, instead of voting for or against him on account of their opinion of what the party in power at Washington should or should not do?

"Since we are to have a direct primary law let it be a law that will rid the people completely of partisan control in the State and local governments. Since the idea of non-partisanship is firmly established let us accept the fact of non-partisanship frankly and do away with party designations, which are an appeal to the prejudiced and the stupid."

Our voters are already non-partisan in local affairs. That has been shown in several successive elections, the most conspicuous example probably being the steady support of Treasurer Trent, Democrat, against the strongest Republicans, solely on the ground that he has managed his office satisfactorily. "What difference in the conduct of a business office, does it make whether a man believes in Protection or Free Trade?" the voters ask,—and there has never been an answer to the question.

The fact is that in Hawaii there is but one office to which the term Democratic or Republican necessarily applies. That is the office of Delegate to Congress. As to every other office on all the tickets there is but one issue,—that of getting the best man in.

NEW KIND OF RICH MAN'S "HOBBY."

Mr. Rudolph Spreckels appeared before Honolulu business men yesterday and made an impression as a needed type of American Rich Man. He represents in a striking way an issue of the present hour in the country's history—a call for a bloodless revolution to prevent a bloody one, for there can be no doubt, as he says himself, that Socialist sentiment is growing in America very largely as a result of dishonesty in business as well as in public affairs, the doctrine that the poor man hasn't a square deal having been, to put it mildly, very hard to combat.

There is disposition to gush over the career of Mr. Spreckels, but heroics are uncalled for, and the truth is enough without them. It may be admitted that there was no extreme hardship involved in his adopting the life of a political reformer. He had no bread and butter to make, was always independent anyhow, and was therefore free to choose his own way, free to pass his time as he wanted to. Under these circumstances Mr. Spreckels might have joined the Newport colony and gained joy and celebrity by inviting others of the upper five to dine with a baboon, or to attend a dinner whose climax should be a Brobdingnagian Pie hiding an altogether maid beneath its precious crust; or he might have entered the ordinary lists of commerce and devoted his high talents and abundant energy to making his fortune grow. He chose a different hobby. For a long time now he has devoted large sums of money and most of his time and abilities to the great public cause of the day in his country, that of reforming American municipal government. It is a fact that the American public has be-

come so accustomed to the rotten in municipal affairs as to be skeptical if not incredulous as to the possibility of disinterested, aggressive good. Hence Mr. Spreckels has to endure the skepticism and sarcasm of those who look for his ulterior selfish motive, as well as the bitter hostility of those whom his campaign hurts. It is a hard role, but the man behind the San Francisco graft prosecution has played it well. Many have been the criticisms of the methods of the prosecution and some of them have seemed justifiable, but it has always seemed plain that the paths all led one way,—to the punishment of grafters, the cleaning of the politics of a great city and proving before all the nation that after all, though Americans have gone pretty far in forgetting it, the Hawaiian national motto, so aptly quoted by President Wakefield of the Commercial Club yesterday in introducing Mr. Spreckels, is true,—"the life of the land is founded on righteousness."

The backers of the San Francisco graft prosecution cut a big figure in the great reform tendency now manifest all over the country. Were there no such movement, the way would lie clear to popular discontent leading to most serious national crisis.

Pastor Poole of a Vermont church advertised his services on a most liberal commercial scale and quadrupled his congregation in three years. The churches in Honolulu advertise their services pretty liberally but on a deadhead basis. In fact the newspapers alone offer salvation free in Honolulu.

The announcement that Robert Mantell is coming to give a series of performances at the Opera House is welcome news to the Honolulu public. He is one among the great actors of the day, and should certainly have a very successful season. Perhaps the day is not far off when this community will see more of such visits.

The most significant remark made by Mr. Spreckels before the Commercial Club yesterday, viewing his campaign from one point of view, was that he had determined never in his life to own a dollar's worth of interest in any public service corporation. Perhaps the most effective mud-slinging that has been done against the San Francisco graft prosecution has been to circulate among the suspicious public of that city the charge that the real reason for Spreckels backing the attacks on the United Railroads officials was that he wanted a franchise for a road of his own.

It is probably only a question of time when the international boycott will cease to be a peace-conserving method of reprisals. With nations as with men the pocket is one of the tenderest spots. Japan has made no sign as yet of resenting the Chinese boycott instituted out of revenge for the Tatsu Maru incident, but that it is not duly entered in the Japanese books for future accounting would be hard to believe. The Turkish boycott against Austrian commerce at latest accounts was being bitterly and effectively waged, not unaccompanied by acts of violence which could not fail to irritate Austrian sentiment. That such a thing should not increase the probabilities of armed warfare, among other existing causes, is beyond reason. The boycott is war in itself and a self-respecting nation will not long endure being its helpless victim if it has power to get even with the aggressor in any way.

Los Angeles, Nov. 28th, 1908.

EDITOR HAWAIIAN STAR,

Honolulu, H. T.

Dear Sir:—A few weeks ago I met Richard Buhler who had recently returned from Honolulu, our conversation brought back many pleasant recollections of my stay there some two years ago.

It is at his suggestion that I am sending the little verses to you. Respectfully yours,

ERNEST WILKES,

616 Ave. 66 Los Angeles, Cal.

TO LEIALOHA.

On an island of enchantment,

Where the southern trade winds blow,

And the soft waves kiss the palm trees;

In the days of long ago,

There lived a maiden, dusky maiden,

Golden haired with eyes of brown,

And she sang Aloha-loha

As the sun was going down

There we met, and there we parted,

There we loved, oh heart of mine,

In the shade of Maunaloa,

Do the southern stars still shine?

Long and lonely I have wandered,

Through the city's heat and roar,

O'er the mountains and the prairies,

By the ocean's dull grey shore

Where each south wind brings a message

From that Isle far o'er the sea,

And again I hear the love songs

That once you sang to me

Are the night flowers still blooming

By the Lanai sweet and white,

Is the ukulele's tuning

Ringling through the soft moonlight?

Could I but turn time's hand back-

ward,

Live again those days of gold,

Neither pride nor fear should part us,

For I loved you, heart of gold,

Loved you even though I left you,

I was white and you were brown,

So you sang Aloha-oe

As the sun was going down.

Little maiden, dusky maiden

Golden heart and eyes of brown,

Though we parted there forever

As the sun was going down:

I cannot forget, forget you,

And my empty aching heart,

Still is calling, still is calling

Though we've drifted far apart.

Willey has been let out of his job

in Shanghai because he is endowed

with too much temperament. The

Hawaiians objected to him on that

ground, and the Shanghaieses soon

found that the objection was well

grounded, and now comes the White

House with a tardy acknowledgment

of the correctness of their views. Mr.

Willey should have learned long ago

that the possession of temperament

is a dangerous thing. Only geniuses

permit themselves to regard it as a

valuable asset. Judges never.—S. F.

Chronicle.



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